

Message Text

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SUBJ: PAZ ESTENSSORO EXPLAINS MNR DECISION TO LEAVE GOVERNMENT

REF: LA PAZ 7128

FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT ISSUED TO PRESS BY VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO ON NOVEMBER 27, 1973, EXPLAINING REASONS MOTIVATING MNR DECISION TO LEAVE BANZER GOVERNMENT:

"IN AUGUST 1971 THE MNR PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONALIST POPULAR FRONT AND JOINED THE CABINET CONVINCED THAT IN THIS WAY IT WAS COOPERATING TO OVERCOME ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE NATION. THERE WAS UNCERTAINTY AND STAGNATION; HATREDS DIVIDED BOLIVIANS INTO OPPOSING CLASSES AND REGIONS, AND OUR NATIONALISM ITSELF WAS ON THE VERGE OF FAILURE. THE VICTORY ATTAINED AT THAT TIME, SET FORTH AS HIGH PRIORITY TASKS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY. IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THIS PROGRAM, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO ATTAIN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STABILITY, WHICH RARELY CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT SACRIFICE, ESPECIALLY BY THE GREAT MASS OF THE PEOPLE. THE MNR ACCEPTED THESE SACRIFICES, EXPENDING ITS POLITICAL RESOURCES IN THE CONVICTION THAT WITHOUT RECONSTRUCTION THE COUNTRY WOULD FALL INTO CHAOS, THAT THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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WAS THE ONLY WAY TO CREATE WEALTH, AND THAT THIS WEALTH SHOULD

BE DISTRIBUTED IN A SOCIALLY JUST MANNER AMONG ALL BOLIVIANS. THE MNR COOPERATED IN ALL OF THESE TASKS. LIKEWISE, WITH THE CERTAINTY THAT THE ARMED FORCES, BECAUSE OF THEIR INSTITUTIONAL STATUS, CONSTITUTE AN INTEGRATING POLITICAL ELEMENT WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED IF A SOLID ORDER IS TO BE CREATED, THE PARTY DECIDED TO COOPERATE WITH THEM, SEEKING POINTS OF AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FRAME OF A REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISM.

THE RESULT IS CLEAR. THE RISKS WHICH THREATENED THE NATION NO LONGER EXIST; THE COUNTRY HAS REGAINED A SENSE OF ITS NATIONALITY. IN SPITE OF THE TRANSITORY DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE PEOPLE, THERE IS CONFIDENCE AT PRESENT. THERE IS ALSO FAITH IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AND AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAS RECOGNIZED BY OFFERING GENERAL ELECTIONS, THERE ARE NOW THE NECESSARY AND ADEQUATE CONDITIONS FOR THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THE FULL EXERCISE OF THEIR SOVEREIGNTY.

DUE TO THE FACTS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE MNR HAVE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE MNR IN THE GOVERNMENT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY. IN THE CURRENT PHASE THAT HAS OPENED WITH THE CABINET CRISIS, THEY CONSIDER THAT THE MNR WILL SERVE THE COUNTRY BETTER FROM A POSITION OF CALM EXPECTANCY, FREE OF THE LIMITING RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SHARED ADMINISTRATION AND, THEREFORE, BETTER ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS LONG SERVICE OF THE DESIRES AND INTERESTS OF WORKERS, FARMERS AND THE MIDDLE CLASS.

FURTHERMORE, THIS DECISION HAS ANOTHER BASIS WHICH IS NO LESS IMPORTANT. THE LAST CABINET CRISIS HAS BENEFITTED NEITHER THE ARMED FORCES, WHOSE POPULAR NATURE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PRE-SERVED, NOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES FORMING THE FRENTE, WHO HAVE UNAVOIDABLE RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD THOSE WHOM THEY REPRESENT. IT HAS FAVORED DIRECTLY THE LARGE PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, WHOSE INTERESTS ARE NOT ALWAYS THOSE OF THE NATION, NOR THOSE OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE, AND IT HAS PLACED THE ECONOMIC SECTORS OF THE STATE'S ORGANIZATION IN THEIR HANDS. FINALLY, IT SHOULD BE EXPLAINED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT RESOLUTION ADOPTED THE 26TH OF THIS MONTH BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE MNR, THOSE MNR POLITICIANS WHO HAVE ACCEPTED MINISTERIAL POSTS HAVE DONE SO

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ON A STRICTLY PERSONAL BASIS AND ARE AUTOMATICALLY EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY."

LA PAZ, NOVEMBER 27, 1973 - VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO, NATIONAL CHIEF OF THE MNR."
STEDMAN

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